

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the claims are amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter. Claims 1-7 and 13-20 are pending. Claims 1, 13-16, 19, and 20 are independent.

I. Telephonic Interview of July 13, 2004

Applicants thank the Examiner for speaking with Applicants' representative on July 13, 2004. The Examiner stated that the phrase "terminal equipment" must be interpreted broadly and has been interpreted by the Examiner to read on, for example, access points and network hardware.

Applicants have amended the claims to replace the phrase "terminal equipment" with "mobile station." Applicants submit that the phrase "mobile station" is a term of art that cannot read on, for example, access points and network hardware.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,061) in view of Cheung (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,531). Applicants traverse the rejection because Stewart and Cheung, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the combination of features recited in the rejected claims.

For example, Stewart and Cheung fail to disclose, teach, or suggest at least the following features of independent claim 1:

the mobile station establishing a connection via the mobile communication system to one of a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet,

the mobile station storing settings of Internet access points that were used last time to access the Internet,

the mobile station storing system information on the mobile communication network or on part of the mobile communication network used to access the Internet last time,

the mobile station receiving broadcast system information on the mobile communication network or on part of the mobile communication network in the current location of the mobile station,

the mobile station comparing said received system information with said stored system information,

the mobile station starting a procedure for updating the stored Internet access point settings of the mobile station with Internet access point settings recommended for the currently used mobile communication network or for part of the mobile communication network, if the mobile station notes, on the basis of said stored and received system information, that the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network has changed.

Stewart merely discloses a method and an apparatus for a geographic-based communication service in which the geographic location of users is obtained using known locations of wireless local area access points (i.e. base stations) that provide service to the mobile users of portable wireless smart devices (e.g. notebook, personal computers, PDA, etc.) who are in the vicinity of these access points. In particular, a mobile user sends a beacon signal, which is picked up by a particular access point (AP) 10 among APs located within a region. Based on the location of the AP 10, which is known by a management information base (MIB) 25, the location of the mobile user is determined. (Col. 4, lines 8-21.)

The mobile user in Stewart fails to take any of the actions of claim 1 identified above. For instance, as admitted in the Office Action, “Stewart fails to clearly disclose terminal equipment storing settings of IAPs that were used last time, as specified in claims 1, 13-16, and 19-20.” Moreover, in contrast to the claimed invention, in which a mobile station establishes a connection via the mobile communication system to an Internet access point that in turn provides access to the Internet, Stewart discloses that a mobile user connects directly to a wireless base station (i.e., part of a mobile communication system) providing access to the Internet. Thus, the “access points” disclosed in Stewart cannot constitute the claimed Internet access points, because the “access points” of Stewart belong to the mobile communication system as defined in the claims.

Cheung fails to remedy the deficiencies of Stewart. The Office Action alleged that “Cheung teaches terminal equipment storing settings of IAPs that were used last time” (page 5). However, Cheung merely teaches that a mobile wireless node stores the addresses of other mobile wireless nodes or base stations that it has heard during a predetermined monitoring period. The stored addresses are cleared after the monitoring period. (Col. 7, lines 9-17, 34-36.) In other words, the mobile wireless node stores information about other radio nodes that are within a coverage area. This information has nothing to do with settings

of Internet access points and other information stored in the terminal equipment, as claimed in the present claims.

Moreover, in Cheung, the interworking node for connecting a wireless LAN to a wired LAN is a wireless access point (i.e. base station) of a wireless LAN. More specifically, the interworking node comprises a wireless communication section for communicating with mobile wireless nodes within its radio coverage area. Each mobile wireless node emits a topology broadcast identifying itself and other nodes it has heard. The interworking node uses this topology broadcast to construct a table tracking each mobile node within its range. Therefore, Cheung fails to teach or suggest an Internet access point to which the terminal equipment establishes a connection via a mobile communication system, as claimed by Applicants. To the contrary, Cheung discloses a wireless LAN base station that is a part of such mobile communications system.

Moreover, even if a person skilled in the art were to apply the teachings of Cheung in the system of Stewart, the claimed invention would not result. To the contrary, a person skilled in the art only would have provided the mobile units of Stewart with means for communicating directly with each other over the air interface as in Cheung, as well as with means for communicating with the base station or wireless access point, and means for storing addresses of these mobile units.

Therefore, Stewart and Cheung fail to teach or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome. Claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the above reasons and for the additional features recited therein.

For at least the above reasons, Stewart and Cheung fail to teach or suggest the following features recited in independent claim 13:

means for establishing a connection via a mobile communication system to one of a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet,

a memory in which Internet access point settings used last time to access the Internet are stored,

a memory in which system information identifying the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network used last time to access the Internet is stored,

means for receiving broadcast system information on the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network of the current location of the mobile station,

means for comparing said received system information with said stored system information, and

updating means for starting the procedure for updating stored Internet access point settings of the mobile station with settings of the Internet access point recommended for the currently used mobile communication network or for part of the mobile communication network, if it is noted on the basis of the stored and received system information that the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network has changed.

For at least the above reasons, Stewart and Cheung fail to teach or suggest the following features recited in independent claim 14:

means for establishing a connection via a mobile communication system to one of a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet,

a memory in which Internet access point settings used last time to access the Internet are stored,

a memory in which system information identifying the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network used last time to access the Internet is stored,

means for receiving broadcast system information on the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network of the current location of the mobile station,

means for comparing said received system information with said stored system information in response to initiation of a new Internet transaction, and

updating means responsive to said means of comparison to carry out said updating procedure before setting up a call via the mobile communication system to an Internet access point, if the mobile station notes on the basis of said stored and received information that the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network has changed.

For at least the above reasons, Stewart and Cheung fail to teach or suggest the following features recited in independent claim 15:

means for establishing a connection via a mobile communication system to one of a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet,

a memory in which Internet access point settings used last time to access the Internet are stored,

a memory in which system information identifying the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network used last time to access the Internet is stored,

means for receiving broadcast system information on the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network of the current location of the mobile station,

means for comparing said received system information with said stored system information, and

updating means for starting the procedure for updating stored Internet access point settings of the mobile station with settings of the Internet access point recommended for the currently used mobile communication network, if it is noted, on the basis of the stored and received system information, that the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network has changed, said updating means in the mobile station further including

i) means for requesting Internet access point settings from the Internet service provider's server via the Internet, said request comprising system information identifying the current mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network of the mobile station, and

ii) means for receiving a response including requested settings from the server via the mobile communication system, and for updating Internet access point settings of the mobile station with the received settings.

For at least the above reasons, Stewart and Cheung fail to teach or suggest the following features recited in independent claim 16:

means for establishing a connection via a mobile communication system to one of a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet,

a memory in which Internet access point settings used last time to access the Internet are stored,

a memory in which system information identifying the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network used last time to access the Internet is stored,

means for receiving broadcast system information on the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network of the current location of the mobile station,

means for comparing said received system information with said stored system information, and

updating means for starting the procedure for updating stored Internet access point settings of the mobile station with setting of the Internet access point recommended for the currently used mobile communication network or for part of the mobile communication network, if it is noted, on the basis of the stored and received system information, that the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network has changed, said updating means in the mobile station further including

i) means for sending a short message requesting Internet access point settings to the message service centre, which has an access to the Internet network, said message containing system information identifying the current mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network of the mobile station, and

ii) means for receiving a message containing the requested settings from the message centre, and for updating Internet access point settings of the mobile station with the received settings.

For at least the above reasons, Stewart and Cheung fail to teach or suggest the following features recited in independent claim 19:

a message service and a mobile station capable of establishing a connection via a mobile communication system to a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet, wherein the mobile communication system is configured to broadcast to the mobile station messages including settings of at least one local Internet access point, which is recommended to be used in part of the mobile communication system in question.

For at least the above reasons, Stewart and Cheung fail to teach or suggest the following features recited in independent claim 20:

a connectivity via a mobile communication system to a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet,

a memory in which Internet access point settings used last time to access the Internet are stored,

a memory in which system information identifying the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network used last time to access the Internet is stored,

a receiver receiving broadcast system information on the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network of the current location of the mobile station,

a comparator comparing said received system information with said stored system information, and

a controller starting a procedure for updating stored Internet access point settings of the mobile station with settings of the Internet access point recommended for the currently used mobile communication network or for part of the mobile communication network, if it is noted, on the basis of the stored and received system information, that the mobile communication network or part of the mobile communication network has changed.

Therefore, Stewart and Cheung fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed method, message service, and mobile station capable of establishing a connection via a mobile communication system to a number of Internet access points providing access to the Internet. Stewart and Cheung further fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a mobile communication system that is configured to broadcast to the mobile station, messages including those associated with settings of at least one local Internet access point. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 13-20 is traversed and those claims are allowable.

III. Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



CARLO M. COTRONE

Reg. No. 48715

Tel. No. (703) 905-2041

Fax No. (703) 905-2500

Date: September 20, 2004
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000